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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 8, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of prophets and saints, ever attentive to Your people, hear the prayers of this Nation and bless the United States of America, all its citizens, all those who work in the three branches of government and all who serve in the military.

Upon the dome which augments this building, Lord, there stands in classical feminine style a bronze Statue of Freedom. She is dressed in flowing drapery symbolic of the outpouring of plenitude which You have showered upon this land. Her headdress of eagle feathers pays tribute to our Native roots and crowned by stars bearing witness to the flag and the heavens.

She is Your creation, a beacon of hope and symbol to all who search in their souls for the lasting freedom You

offer all Your beloved children. May we hear again today Your clear and assuring message saying to the heart of this Nation, "I alone am the Lord" and "The Lord is with you." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BAIRD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

AMERICA'S SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the latest economic numbers show that the Republicans' pro-growth economic policies are working. In November, the U.S. Consumer Confidence Index rose almost 15 points from the previous month, which bodes well as we enter the holiday shopping season.

The White House has projected that the economy would record a growth rate of 3.5 percent for 2005. In addition, the number of Americans filing first-time job claims fell to a new 7-month low, and the unemployment rate is holding steady at 5 percent.

Finally, nearly 4.5 million jobs have been added in the last 2½ years. This encouraging economic news demonstrates that the Republican plan of low taxes and restrained Federal spending is a winning combination.

Last month, we passed the Deficit Reduction Act, which is a plan to help reform government and yield savings for American taxpayers. Democrats, on the other hand, continue to push their tax-and-spend policies, a plan which is neither good for the family checkbook nor the American economy.

Republicans will continue to push for pro-growth policies to ensure that all Americans can realize the American Dream.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECHES ARE OUT OF ORDER

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, the President gave his progress in Iraq speech.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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